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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 17 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter from His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you (see annex).

It would be appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 42, 44, and 146, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Annex

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

During the past few days, southern Lebanon and Beirut have been targets of savage attacks from the air, sea and land by Israeli armed forces, whereby the war and bloodshed in the Middle East have found new dimensions. The recent aggression by the Zionist regime has reportedly brought about the occupation of other areas of Lebanon, killing and injuring of hundreds of civilians, including women and children, displacement of about 500,000 residents from southern Lebanon, as well as destruction of a large number of economic and civilian installations, resulting in heavy material damage to that country. The dangerous dimensions of the Israeli aggression are so massive that they bring back the bitter memories of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The scope of the ongoing Israeli aggression is feared to spread even further.

The perpetration of acts of terrorism and the imposition of inhumane measures by the Israeli military are neither surprising nor a new phenomenon - for they are integral to the expansionist and aggressive nature of this regime, which has disregarded the will of the international community and violated numerous General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolution 425 (1978) with impunity.

I should reiterate that the primary reasons for the continuation of the Middle East crisis is the absence of an effective measure to deal with Israeli aggression and acts of terrorism, on the one hand, and the disregard of the legitimate demands of the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims in the region, on the other. It is in this context that embracing unrealistic and unfair solutions have, in practice, precluded the return of durable peace and stability to the region. Furthermore, the attempt to label as terrorism the just struggle of Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine for freedom and liberation of their own land from foreign occupation, and the policy of certain States to remain aloof and silent to savage, inhumane and terrorist acts of the zionist regime can never be considered an appropriate approach in dealing with the long-standing issue of the Middle East. Such an approach results only in the further complication of the issue and encouragement of the occupying Power to persist in its violent and suppressive policies. It is imperative for the international community to prevent, on the basis of the lessons learned, the continuation of such criminal acts by Israel, and to present a just solution which would bring lasting peace and security to the region.

I have no doubt that continuation of the violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence by the Zionist regime, interference in its internal affairs through acts of terrorism and the use of mercenaries, strangulation of Palestinians, and inflicting fear and hardship on them will not only fail to de-escalate tension and bring stability to the region, but will also expand the scope of the conflict. Continuation of

aggression, massacre and violation of the most basic human rights by Israel entails dangerous consequences which render your task extremely critical. I call upon you to use your authority and good offices to double the efforts to end the Israeli aggression and return peace and stability to Lebanon.

Ali Akbar Velayati
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Islamic Republic of Iran